United Nations S/2002/479

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 April 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 25 April 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 1386 (2001) of 20 December 2001, I hereby submit a further report on the activities of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan for the consideration of members of the Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if the report could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Stewart **Eldon**
Chargé d'affaires

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Annex to the letter dated 25 April 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Second report on the activities of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan

1. The International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF) achieved full operating capability on 18 February and transfer of command of the Kabul Multinational Brigade passed to Germany on 19 March. The United Kingdom remains in place as lead nation and in command of ISAF headquarters. ISAF is now in the middle of carrying out the necessary roulement of a number of capabilities; it is important to maintain campaign coherence during the transition from one contingent to another, through careful and timely planning. It is hoped that Turkey will shortly confirm its agreement in principle to take over as lead nation of ISAF. Final details of the handover are currently being worked out.

2. The relationship of ISAF with the Interim Administration remains productive and liaison with the key Afghan ministries and other organizations is well established. The Interim Administration has demonstrated its growing capability, and good coordination and cooperation have been demonstrated during the organization of some key events, including the return of King Zahir Shah, and in the planning for the military parade scheduled for 28 April.

3. The security situation in Kabul has improved significantly since the arrival of ISAF. According to ISAF ongoing statistical analysis, crime rates have decreased across the city by as much as 70 per cent. The general population of Kabul welcomes the security and confidence that ISAF brings, with some 89 per cent of respondents saying that they are happy with the presence of the Force. There have been a few low-level incidents involving ISAF patrols, which we associate with increased patrolling activity, especially in the hours of darkness, in the more lawless areas of the city. ISAF will continue to work to improve the security situation in these areas.

4. The Interim Administration police, with the assistance of ISAF and the international community, are improving in organization and effectiveness. The German-led police training programme, which is now under way, should improve this still further. It is reported that policemen below the rank of lieutenant are still not being paid sufficient to live on, which gives cause for concern, especially as there is evidence that some crime being committed involves members of the police.

5. The 1st Battalion of the Afghan National Guard passed out of training on 4 April. The passing-out parade attracted significant media attention. The Interim Administration is now employing the Battalion on a number of tasks — a welcome first step for this first, multi-ethnic, centrally commanded battalion of the new centrally directed national army. ISAF will continue to work with the Interim Administration and the Afghan Ministry of Defence to ensure that the 1st Battalion receives sufficient moral and material support.

6. Security sector reform has moved a step forward with the recent Geneva conference. ISAF worked closely with the United Nations Assistance Mission in

Afghanistan in preparation for that event and remains engaged with them, providing support and advice. The second Afghan Security Assistance Meeting will be held at Geneva on 17 May and will be an important opportunity to move this process forward. It will be concentrating on:

- Building a national army (United States lead)
- Building national police (German lead)
- Strengthening the courts, the penal system and the administration of justice (Italian lead)
- Demobilization (United Nations lead)
- Counter-narcotics (United Kingdom lead)

7. The relationship of ISAF with the United Nations Assistance Mission is extremely good. ISAF staff are involved in a number of working groups and consultative processes across the spectrum of United Nations activity in Afghanistan. There is daily cooperation and good understanding at all levels from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General down on a range of issues, including maintenance of security in the city, civil-military projects, security sector reform and the planning for the Loya Jirga ISAF will be closely involved with preparations for the event in June and is providing security planning and technical advice.

8. The establishment of the Afghan Assistance Coordination Agency as the mechanism for matching funding with the requirements of the National Development Framework is a significant step forward in efficiency and sound and energetic management. Working closely with the United Nations Assistance Mission, the Agency is beginning to prove an effective way of bringing tangible improvement to the social fabric and economy of Afghanistan.